

the Gateway

Vol. 62, No. 25, Dec. 17, 2004, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

News Briefs

SNCOA graduates

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Air Force's Senior NCO Academy Class 06-A at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Graduates from Team Rhein-Main were:

- **Master Sgt. Robert Tejada**, 469th Air Base Group Clinic;
- **Master Sgt. Marcel Balaoro**, 726th Air Mobility Squadron;
- **Master Sgt. Ricky Carns**, 726th AMS.

NCOA graduates

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Kisling NCO Academy Class 2005-1 at Kapaun Air Station, Germany.

Graduates from Team Rhein-Main were:

- **Tech. Sgt. Fred English**, 469th ABG Safety Office;
 - **Tech. Sgt. Marc Lindley**, 469th ABG Security Forces Flight;
 - **Tech. Sgt. Jesse Starks**, 469th ABG Services Flight;
- From the 726th AMS:
- **Tech. Sgt. Jason Eighmey**;
 - **Tech. Sgt. Barbara Stanley**.

ALS graduates

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Ramstein Airman Leadership School Class 2005-2 at Kapaun Air Station, Germany.

Graduates from Team Rhein-Main were:

- **Senior Airman Kristin Farmer**, 469th ABG Finance Office;
- **Senior Airman Justin Molyneux**, 469th ABG Communications Flight.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

In the spirit

Col. Brad Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Stewart, 469th ABG superintendent, help load packages on a truck at the base post office Dec. 7. Volunteers are needed at the post office during the holiday season. To volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Jamal Rahmon at 330-6384. The finance and parcel pickup window will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The parcel pickup window will be open until 7 p.m. Thursday. The post office will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

A special holiday season

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — You worked hard over the past year, selflessly dedicating yourself to the mission, not only in Europe, but throughout the world. Be sure to take time over the holidays to enjoy the season and camaraderie of family and friends.

As the holidays approach, pause and reflect on your accomplishments as well as the sacrifices, you and your family have made. I'm proud of your superb courage and selflessness which never cease to amaze me. Your hard

work is making an enormous difference around the world as we build a better future for all. Without dedicated folks like you, we would not be the world's most respected and feared Air Force.

As you celebrate the holidays, don't lose focus on your fellow Wingmen who may be spending the season away from their loved ones. Reach out and include them in your holiday activities. Remember, whether deployed or at home station, you're an important part of our USAFE family.

Thanks for all you do!

Mary and I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.



USAFE

Airman Information File

December 2004

Service Before Self -- It's Bigger Than Us!

Integrity first, Service before Self and Excellence in all we do -- these are the Air Force core values. Service before Self is often quoted but not always fully understood. It's frequently used as a catchphrase to motivate subordinates to do the less desirable jobs, but the real meaning is much deeper than this.

We are professional Airmen on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to guard and defend the freedom of America -- a grave responsibility we should not take lightly. As Airmen, we belong to something much larger than our individual units. We're members of the USAFE team, which forms a vital part of our Air Force, and ultimately we're all Americans.

Laying aside our own agenda to accomplish the mission is the essence of Service before Self. It's the exact opposite of careerism, where individuals only focus on what is best for their personal careers. It means doing all we can for our unit which translates to the success of the Air Force and America. This core value is exemplified when Airmen willingly make personal sacrifices for the greater cause of our nation. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in defense of our freedom.

On the practical side, Service before Self means we follow the rules. Don't bend or break them for personal gain or gratification. It means we respect each other and value everyone's individual contributions to the team. Discipline and self-control are key elements that allow us to achieve this core value. Finally, have faith in the system. When you think you know best and disregard those above, you've lost faith in the system and place self before service.

One of the greatest strengths of America is our single unity of purpose. We have the freedom to voice our opinions and discuss national issues in our government. Often these can be very emotional and heated debates, but in the end America has always stood unified in the face of opposition. This unity of purpose is clearly seen from the Revolutionary War to present day operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's a direct result of Americans setting aside personal desires and uniting against a common threat for the greater good of our nation and others.

Service before Self -- it's bigger than each individual. Thanks for continuing to place Service before Self as we guard the freedoms of America!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doc Foglesong".

General Doc Foglesong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Coleman".

CMSgt Gary Coleman

"Bring Your Courage"

Showin' the way

Jannelle Villanueva, 469th Air Base Group Services Flight fitness director, (left) gives advice to Staff Sgt. Melissa Daniels, 469th ABG Communications Flight, as she works on the leg press machine at the base fitness center Wednesday. Mrs. Villanueva offers personal training sessions by appointment from 5:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday-Friday. She can provide a picture of a person's current fitness, offer nutritional advice and develop a fitness routine based on a client's needs. For more information, call the fitness center at 330-7151.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Rhein-Main water passes test

Samples continue to be found within limits for lead, copper levels

By Staff Sgt. Sonia Mercado
469th Air Base Group Clinic

During the latest round of annual lead and copper water sample testing at Gateway Gardens and the main operating base at Rhein-Main, all locations were found to be below established limits.

The 469th Air Base Group Medical Flight's Bioenvironmental Engineering Services continuously monitors the base drinking water for possible contaminants to ensure the water meets the highest health standards.

The recent samples were taken after the water was allowed to remain stagnant in the lines for a minimum of six hours. The sampling measures worst case conditions.

Lead levels were not detected when fresh water is allowed to flow through the lines for a short period of time.

Lead detected at certain locations does not mean there is lead throughout the system. Lead may be detected at one location and not at another.

Additionally, the sampling is used to help assess water treatment techniques which may contribute to the leaching of lead from the service lines and fixtures.

The water on base is safe to drink if residents follow these simple steps:

- Use only the cold water tap for drinking or cooking and let it run for one minute prior to use. After the cold water tap has run for one minute the lead levels drop well below levels of detection.

- No matter where you live, you should never use the hot water tap for drinking or cooking. If you need hot water, use cold water and heat it up on the stove or in a microwave.

Lead enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion of materials containing lead in the water distribution system or household plumbing. Some sources include: lead pipes, lead lined joints, fittings, valves, or elbows, and in some cases where lead solder was used.

When water stands in plumbing for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

This means the first water drawn in the morning, or any time after a tap has not been used for six or more hours, may contain higher lead levels.

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain and pewter. When lead is ingested over many years, it can build up in the body and cause damage in the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys. However, lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning.

In addition to annual lead and copper sampling, bioenvironmental engineering services routinely perform comprehensive tests of Gateway Gardens and the main operating base drinking water. The water is checked for bacteriological contamination and more than 100 different chemicals. Results continue to demonstrate the water is safe to drink.

For more information on drinking water issues, call Staff Sgt. Sonia Mercado.

All I want for Christmas

My Christmas list this year is short – an autographed Peyton Manning jersey, and the video series “*Band of Brothers*”.

I bought “*Band of Brothers*” at the base exchange, wrapped it up and put it under the tree. I gave it to my wife – boy will she be surprised.

I doubt I’ll get a Peyton Manning jersey since everybody knows the Indianapolis Colts will win the Super Bowl and Manning will be the most valuable player. His stuff is already too expensive. I did want a Barry Bonds rookie card, but the latest steroid scandal changed my mind.

Neat stuff, but there’s got to be more substance to a Christmas list than jerseys, baseball cards and movies – we need to think a little harder.

What is it that we really want? How about every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine safe at home with their families during the holidays; Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda surrendering; and a halt to the car bombings in Iraq. And while we’re at it, let’s go one year with zero suicides, zero DUIs and zero traffic mishaps – now that’s a Christmas list.

It’s not my list, it’s our list. We are

all working to accomplish these goals. We may not be able to bring all the troops home by Christmas, but we can pray for their eventual safe return. We can also ask God to protect those in harms way – and for the collapse of Al Qaeda.

The rest of the list is well within our control. If we take care of each other, watch out for each other and use good sense we can “zero out” the things that kill us and destroy our lives.

There’s a reason we do Combat Touch, Combat Wingman and Project CHEER. These programs save lives and keep us from making poor decisions that endanger lives. Nothing could be worse around the holidays than a suicide, a DUI or a traffic mishap.

I have one more item to add to my list, I wish you a safe and blessed season and as we experience our last Rhein-Main Christmas I pray that it will be our best.

Be safe, be smart and look out for one another – oh and one more thing – I sure would like to score a basket in intramural basketball. Everybody else on the team has more points than me.



**By Chaplain
(Lt. Col.) Dennis
Kitterman**
469th Air Base
Group Chapel

What’s in a name?

Currently, there are more than 600 active duty Air Force chaplains and nearly 600 in service with the Reserves and Air National Guard. Each chaplain is endorsed by his or her own religious group and remains faithful to the tenets of that body. Chaplains also offer a broadly based ministry

aimed at meeting the diverse pastoral needs of the pluralistic military community. Active duty and Reserve chaplains are responsible for supporting both directly and indirectly the free exercise of religion for all members of the military services, their dependents and other authorized persons.

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander’s Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven’t been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf. If you have any questions, call Public Affairs.



Col. Bradley Denison
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779

the Gateway

Editorial Staff

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*The deadline for the Jan. 14
edition of the Gateway is
4 p.m. Jan. 6.*

Warriors of the Week



Airman 1st Class Lindsay Boughner

Unit: 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight

Time in Air Force: 2 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 4 months

Duty Title: Security Forces patrolman

Hometown: Gloucester, Va.

Hobbies: Shopping

What has been your best Air Force experience?

The ability to continue my education and work towards a bachelor's degree.

469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight



Airman 1st Class Susan Williams

Unit: 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight

Time in government service: 2 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 6 months

Duty Title: Security Forces patrolman

Hometown: Fort Collins, Colo.

Hobbies: Snowboarding

What has been your best Air Force experience?

All the people I've had a chance to meet since coming into the Air Force.

Academy fallout to change military services

Confidential reporting system to begin Jan. 1; services to agree on definition of sexual assault

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All servicemembers will deal with the fallout from the sexual assault problems at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Department of Defense officials said here Dec. 7.

First, the department "takes any and all allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault very seriously," said Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita. He said DoD officials are committed to improving prevention efforts, enhancing support to victims and increasing offender accountability.

The department will institute a confidential reporting process for sexual assaults, said Dr. David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We have learned that confidentiality to victims will actually increase the probability that cases will be reported — cases that are currently unknown to us," he said. "We want to sustain good order and discipline by holding those who assault their fellow servicemembers accountable for their actions. But first and

foremost, we want victims to come forward for help."

The service secretaries and service chiefs have agreed on a process, Dr. Chu said. DoD officials will put the victims confidentiality reporting system in place by Jan. 1, he said.

But the services first have to agree on a clear, understandable definition of what sexual assault is, Dr. Chu said.

"One of the things that often happens here is the individual will not necessarily characterize what happened to them as sexual assault," he said.

The definition will be written in plain English "such that the typical recruit at basic training can understand what we're saying. This is not going to be written for the lawyers," Dr. Chu said.

There is already substantial training for U.S. forces on preventing sexual assaults, starting in basic training.

"We recognize we have to reinforce that," Dr. Chu said. Servicemembers will receive further training on preventing sexual assaults as they progress through their careers, whether they are officers or enlisted members, he said.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force vice chief of staff, said action will speak louder than words. He vowed the service would deal with the problem and "provide a workplace with dignity and respect, and a safe environment for our people to serve honorably."



Photo by Jonathan Walker



Happy Holidays!



Photo by Jackie Muir



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

(Clockwise from top left) Col. Brad Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, catches up with two of Santa's elves, (Jackie Muir (left) and Karen Robinson), during the group's holiday celebration Dec. 1. The colonel officially lit the base Christmas tree during a ceremony following the annual holiday parade. Santa Claus (a.k.a. Chuck Kotyrba, formerly of the 469th ABG Logistics Flight) takes a request from Gabriel Villanueva, son of Airman 1st Class Gabriel and Jannelle Villanueva, at the base chapel annex. The logistics flight won the community holiday card decorating competition and a first prize of \$300. The 726th Air Mobility Squadron Communications and Information Section took second place and \$200. The 469th ABG Services Flight came in third and earned \$100.



What do you want for Christmas?



Capt. Angela Stanton,
469th ABG Clinic

What I want for Christmas:
People to brush their teeth
twice a day and floss once.

**What I will probably get for
Christmas:** Toothaches and
bleeding gums.

What I want for Christmas:
Hair.

**What I will probably get for
Christmas:** New razors.

Tech. Sgt. James Cunningham,
469th ABG Clinic



Capt. Matthew Orlowsky,
469th ABG Services Flight

What I want for Christmas:
A 2005 C230 Kompressor
Sport Coupe.

**What I will probably get for
Christmas:** Monthly Volvo
payments.

What I want for Christmas:
A 60-inch plasma screen
television.

**What I will probably get for
Christmas:** A piece of coal –
because I was bad this year.

Staff Sgt. Rachel Gardner,
469th ABG Finance



Tech. Sgt. Brian McHugh,
469th ABG Communications
Flight

What I want for Christmas:
A Fatbox MP3 player
for my Saab.

**What I will probably get for
Christmas:** Socks and
underwear.

Ensure home fires don't extinguish holiday fun

By Inge Lersche

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron
Fire Prevention

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when people face a much greater risk of home fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, many house fires occur each year during the holiday season, making it the most dangerous time of year.

Officials from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron's fire and emergency services flight offer holiday season fire safety awareness tips to help prevent a fire:

Christmas trees: A dried-out evergreen tree is an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Buy a freshly cut tree; beware of any tree with brittle or shedding needles. Stand the tree on a sturdy, nontrip tree stand. Keep it away from heat sources, such as radiators,

television sets and fireplaces. Ensure it does not block room exits.

Do not put the tree in front of balcony doors, which are a secondary means of escape. Check the tree's water level daily and discard the tree when the water absorption stops.

When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as "fire-retardant."

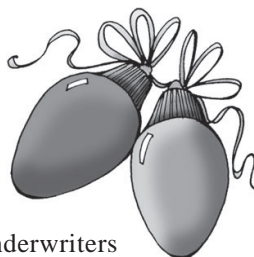


Holiday lighting:

When decorating with lights, purchase only lights that are certified by Underwriters Laboratory or the equivalent at overseas locations.

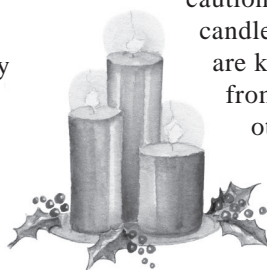
Use extension cords sparingly. Check for frayed or damaged cords and replace those that show wear and tear.

Do not overload electrical outlets, and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. For outside decorations, use only those labeled for outdoor use.



Candles:

Exercise extreme caution when burning candles. Be sure they are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials. Never leave children unattended in a room with lighted candles.



Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Do not display lighted candles in windows, as curtains may ignite, especially when the window is left open and wind blows a curtain over the candle. Never use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

Holiday parties: Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Provide guests who smoke with large, deep ashtrays and empty them frequently. After parties, check for discarded

cigarette butts inside and under couches and chairs and in trashcans. A cigarette butt left in these places can smolder and ignite into a fire hours later. In the vast majority of cases, it is not the resulting fire, but rather the initial smoke buildup that kills people as they sleep.

Kitchen fire safety: Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States.

The rate of unattended cooking fires spikes during the holidays.

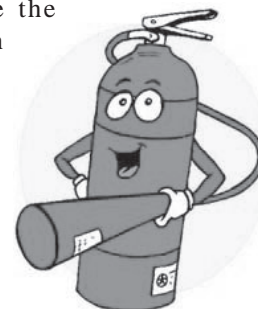
Never leave the kitchen when something is cooking on the stove and always turn pot handles inward so curious children cannot

pull the pot down onto themselves.

Wear tight-fitting clothes when cooking, as loose clothes can be ignited readily by hot burners. Do not store items on the stove top, as they can catch fire easily. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition; make certain to turn them off when finished cooking. In case of a stove-top fire, attempt to cover the burning pot with a lid, turn the stove off, evacuate the house and call the base fire department from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

Home fires and injuries caused by them are not on anyone's Christmas list.

Common sense and a little imagination can make for a holiday celebration that is not only enjoyable and festive, but also safe, officials said.





Around Rhein-Main

Holiday hours

Following are holiday hours for various services and organizations throughout Rhein-Main:

■ **Family Support Center** –
noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 25
Closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Base Exchange** –
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 1

(The base exchange will offer an early-bird special from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Saturday and pictures with Santa from 1 - 2 p.m. Sunday.)

■ **Shoppette** –
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and Jan. 1
Closed Dec. 25

■ **Commissary** –
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 28
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 31
Closed Jan. 1

■ **Liberty Cafe** –
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Thursday
Closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. - midnight Dec. 31
noon to 9 p.m. Jan. 1

■ **Fitness Center** –
5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 25
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26 and 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Bowling Center** –
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday
1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Dec. 24
4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Dec. 25
noon - 9 p.m. Dec. 26
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31

9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Jan. 1
■ **Rocket Sports Lounge** –
4 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 23, 24, 26 and 31
Closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

■ **Child Development Center** –
Closed Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1

■ **School Age Programs** –
Closed Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Youth Center** –
Closed Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Base Library** –
Closed Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Cargo Point** –
5 - 10 p.m. Dec. 23 and 26
Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 and 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Charlie's** –
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 6 p.m. Dec. 23
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25, 26 and 31 and Jan. 1

■ **G's Photo** –
Closed Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26 and 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Plaque Shop** –
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 23
Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan. 1

■ **Community Bank** –
Closed Dec. 24
9 a.m. to noon Dec. 31

■ **Andrews Federal Credit Union** –
Closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 31

Club cards

Can't figure out who to contact when you need help with your Air Force Club Card account? Call Teresa Kammermeier at the Rocket Sports Lounge.

Leave policy

Regular pass (liberty) includes non-duty status from the close-of-business on a duty day to the beginning of working hours the next duty day.

A regular pass is considered normal non-duty days (e.g. Saturday and Sunday), including holidays. A three-day or four-day special pass is for special recognition or occasions or compensatory time-off.

All military members must follow the procedures established by Air Force Instruction 36-3003, *Military Leave Program*, paragraphs 8.4.1-8.4.9.

A member who is out of the local area during a regular pass period must return to the local area before beginning leave on the duty day following a three-day or four-day regular pass period. If a member does

not return to the local area before beginning leave, the entire regular pass period is chargeable leave.

Additionally, leave begun before the three-day or four-day pass period will continue to be charged until the member returns to the local area.

The local area is defined as the place where a member lives and from where the member commutes to their duty station. All personnel on a regular or special pass must inform their supervisors or commanders when they travel to a place that requires an overnight stay due to distance from the unit, whether traveling by air or a privately-owned vehicle. In the event of an operational mission requirement such as a recall, unit alert or unit emergency, all personnel are required to be able to return to duty within a reasonable time and will make every effort possible to secure transportation to do so.

Out with the old

Two large containers will be in the shoppette parking lot and adjacent to Bldg. 624 in Gateway Gardens from Dec. 29 through Jan. 7 for the disposal of Christmas trees.

The next bulk pick-up is scheduled for Dec. 29. Residents are reminded not to dispose of hazardous materials (i.e. cleaning products, paints, solvents, batteries) during bulk trash pick-up. These items will not be accepted by the trash contractors and base officials cannot allow such items to be placed on the curb for safety reasons.

Also, cardboard boxes, paper products and packaging materials will not be accepted. These are recyclable items and should be broken down and placed in the appropriate paper or plastic/packaging bins located throughout housing.

To dispose of hazardous materials, contact the 469th Air Base Group Civil Engineer Flight Environmental Management Office at 069-699-7844 to arrange for a special scheduled pick-up.

There is no charge to residents for this type of disposal.



Closure Corner

This section is devoted to giving the Rhein-Main Community the most up-to-date information concerning base closure issues. All dates presented in this section are subject to change based on: manpower figures, personnel assignment information and ongoing U.S. Air Forces in Europe coordination.

Following is a list of questions and answers concerning civilian personnel issues connected with the closure of Rhein-Main:

Q: What is the process for employees hired as excepted service, such as family members or tourists, that are not in a term/temporary appointment? Are they eligible for the priority placement program?

A: Yes.

Q: If a Reduction in Force action will be done, at what point (60 days prior, 90 days prior, etc.) are people notified of their RIF date?

A: 60 days prior to RIF date.

Q: Who establishes the RIF date?

A: 469th Air Base Group commander.

Q: What about those who are career conditional?

A: If the employee has return rights – he/she will exercise return rights. If no return rights, he/she will be eligible to register in the PPP.

Q: When we are no longer employed at Rhein-Main, what happens to the money that goes into the Federal Employee Retirement System?

A: The money that's been deposited for employees FERS does not move unless they apply for a refund or become employed again and

FERS coverage continues.

Q: What happens with the Thrift Savings Plan?

A: Generally, TSP remains unless a person is eligible to file for a refund. People may continue it when they obtain further federal employment.

Q: What happens with Federal Employees Group Life Insurance?

A: If you are separated, then your FEGLI coverage continues for 31 days and you can then obtain private coverage.

Q: What are the rules for leave without pay when our positions end?

A: See Chapter 4 of Air Force Instruction 36-815 or for specific questions contact 480-4213, as there may be specific circumstances to consider.

Q: What about unused annual leave and sick leave when our positions end?

A: If you are separated, you're paid a lump sum for any accrued annual leave. Your sick leave remains in your record in the event you return to federal service at a later date.

Q: If we used our spouse preference for this job, can we use it again for other government jobs in the area?

A: Not in the commuting area when there is no permanent change of station move. However, as an indefinite family member who is in receipt of a RIF notice is

eligible to register in the commuting area of their sponsor as a Priority 1 candidate.

Q: Will we get a final copy of an Standard Form-50 when we are no longer employed?

A: You can pull it from your electronic Official Personnel File once the separation date has passed.

Q: If we are local hires, what type of out-processing do we need to do and what is the time-frame on that?

A: You'll receive an outprocessing checklist approximately 30 days prior to your separation date.

Q: If we are on an appointment that is "Not To Exceed 31 December 2005", are we really guaranteed employment until that date or will we be let go before that date?

A: No, management has the option to terminate your appointment when it's determined there is no more work.

Q: How much notice will we be given for that date?

A: Normally, 60 days.

Q: If we are here to the end, will leadership be allowed to make us do other jobs besides our assigned positions?

A: It's very possible this may happen. If the work is completely different than your current position description, management may opt to detail and if possible, temporary promote.

Q: For example, if I work at the family support center but they need someone at the base post office, can I be made to work in another position?

A: Yes.

DUI/DWI Tracker

Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)

469th Air Base Group

44 days

726th Air Mobility Squadron

4 days

64th Replacement Company

212 days

Tenant Units

177 days

Others

139 days

The 469th ABG Top IV provides a

fund at the main gate for permanent party personnel who take a taxi back to the base instead of driving while intoxicated.

The money used must be reimbursed the next duty day.



Cop puts stop to would-be goalscorers

Rhein-Main Airman to get shot at making Air Force soccer team

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Eric Donner
Public Affairs

"Goooooooooooooooooal!"

The most famous call in the most popular sport in the world isn't something heard very often with this cop in front of the net.

Senior Airman Jonathan Zumkehr, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight, is taking his talent and love for the game of soccer on the road to Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

He's one of 31 players invited to try out for the Air Force soccer team at a camp Jan. 6-23. This marks the first time Airman Zumkehr has been asked to tryout for the team.

"I had three goals when I came into the Air Force – to be stationed in Korea and Germany and to make the Air Force soccer team," he said. "I have already completed two of the three goals."

With 19 years of soccer under his belt and five years at his current position of goalie, Airman Zumkehr feels he has a better-than-average chance of making the team.

But, he concedes that keeper is one of the most difficult positions on the field and maybe even one of the most painful. During his tenure in goal he's broke both of his thumbs multiple times.

Airman Zumkehr is the starting



Senior Airman Jonathan Zumkehr, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight, will travel to Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., next month to try out for the Air Force soccer team.

goalie for the Rhein-Main base soccer team. He doesn't only play, but also helps to coordinate and organize practices, game transportation – and until recently coached.

The base team has started the current season strong with a 7-2-1 record. The team plays in an indoor soccer league which includes squads from the different companies that work with or at the Frankfurt airport.

"We do well because the Germans don't know what to expect," said Airman Zumkehr. "We're always aggressive and going for the ball."

The European style of play is a mixture of style and strategy and doesn't always match up well against the pressure style of the Americans.

Airman Zumkehr also plays for the Siemens AG Schaltanlagenwerk Frankfurt.

After just one practice with the German team, he was assigned as starting goalie – beating out three other former team goalies. He's one of only



two American guest players on the team.

The Siemens team competes in an outdoor soccer league with teams from around Germany. The team will begin practice in February for next year's season.

Varsity soccer

The base soccer team practices from 8 - 10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the base fitness center.

Everyone is welcome to tryout for the base team, including personnel on temporary duty, spouses, Army personnel and anyone interested in learning about the game of soccer.

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Soccer Tournament is set for Oct. 17-23 in Camp Darby, Italy.

Children's party

The 469th Air Base Group Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for 9 - 11 a.m. Saturday at the youth center.

The event will include a visit from Santa, holiday crafts, snacks and more.

Racquetball tourney

The base fitness centers sponsors a racquetball tournament at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Holiday hours

The base post office finance and parcel pick-up window will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Jingle Bell Run

A 5K Jingle Bell Fun Run is set for 3:30 p.m. Monday at the base fitness center. The run is also a benefit for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program.

Runners are encouraged to bring new toys for needy children.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mark Cave.

At the alleys

The Rocket Bowling Center offers free bowling every Thursday for unaccompanied and TDY servicemembers. Members should show their dormitory or hotel key to



The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services, are support a Project CHEER initiative by offering free movies at Air Force base theaters during the holidays.

The Rhein-Main base theater will show "Surviving Christmas," at 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and "National Treasure," at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 25, for free. Moviegoers will also receive a free medium popcorn and medium soda.

The movies are on a first-come, first-serve basis and open to the entire Rhein-Main community.

receive the special.

Friday nights are designed for the family, with a \$5 "All you can bowl" special.

Look for more information coming soon about the center's New Year's Eve party.

Cooking solo

The family support centers sponsors a class designed for those living in the dormitories or people cooking for themselves or small quantities.

The class is set for 6 - 8 p.m. Dec. 27 at Our House. Call 330-7992 for details.

USO trips

The USO offers a trip to Evelin's Wellness Paradise in Bad Orb from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 8.

Evelin has created a special two and a half hour package favored by USO customers for 95 euro (with a Value Added Tax form). The package includes an aroma body wrap treatment and moisturizing herbal essence body and foot massage.

Cost of trip is \$29 and includes transportation only. Sign-up deadline is two days before departure. Participants should bring euros for meals and purchases.

Call 330-6424 or visit the USO office in the passenger terminal, Bldg. 400, for more information.

Town hall

The next Rhein-Main Closure town hall meeting is scheduled for Jan. 20.

To better answer the community's questions, the 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is collecting questions prior to the meeting. Please submit your question to PA@rheinmain.af.mil.

Holiday worship

Following is a portion of the Rhein-Main Chapel Combat Touch 2004 holiday worship calendar:

Catholic Community

- Sunday – 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday – Advent Reconciliation Service, Mass at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve, Mass at 5 p.m., dessert social at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas, Mass at 9 a.m.

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "After the Sunset," (PG-13), 7 p.m. and "Taxi," (PG-13), 9:30 p.m.

Saturday - "The Polar Express," (G), 5 p.m. and "Friday Night Lights," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "Shark Tale," (PG), 7 p.m.

Wednesday - "Closer," (R), 7 p.m.

Dec. 24 - "Surviving Christmas," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 25 - "Spongebob Squarepants Movie," (PG), 5 p.m., and "National Treasure," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 26 - "Team America: World Police," (R), 7 p.m.

Dec. 28 - "Ocean's Twelve," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 29 - "Ocean's Twelve," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 30 - "Lemony Snickets," (PG), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp

For sale

Limited Edition "Berlin Airlift" Hummel figurine. Mint cond. 225 euro or \$325. Call 069-6500-6670 after 4:30 p.m.

- Dec. 26 – Feast of the Holy Family, Mass at 9 a.m.
- Jan. 1 – Mary, Mother of God, Mass at 9 a.m.
- Jan. 2 – Epiphany, Mass at 9 a.m.

Protestant Community

- Sunday – 4th Sunday of Advent, worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve, special music and carols at 7 p.m., candle light worship at 7:30 p.m. with pictures and refreshments to follow.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas, Combat Touch Christmas Fellowship meal, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 26 – Worship service at 10:30 a.m., no Sunday school
- Jan. 2 – Epiphany worship at 10:30 a.m.



Photos by Galen Frysinger

(Left) One of the most famous items on sale at the Nürnberg Christmas market is the Quetschemännchen or "prune men" dolls. (Above) Marketgoers can catch a ride around town in a horse-drawn carriage.

A visit to the market(s)



Day Trippin'

One of the most notable Christmas traditions in towns throughout Germany is Christmas markets.

The centuries-old tradition reaches back to a time when regular seasonal markets took place throughout the year. Christmas markets were a welcome occurrence during cold-weather months. They were joyful occasions for weary villagers and added a bit of light to long winter nights.

The first real "Christkindlesmarkt", or Christ child market, was held in 1628 in Nürnberg and developed from a tradition of giving children gifts at New Years. In 1559 it changed to giving gifts at Christmas.

Many Christmas markets are similar, made up of stands selling Christmas decorations, handicrafts, ceramics and glass works, as well as food and drinks. Some of the traditional items include crib figurines, toys, wood carvings, marionettes, candles and lambskin shoes.

The most popular drink at the markets is "Glühwein," a spiced, warm red wine.

The Nürnberg Christmas market is the largest in Germany and has more than

160 stands and concerts every day. The specialty of the Nürnberg market is "Nürnberger Christstollen" or Nürnberger Christmas stollen.

One of the closest markets is in Frankfurt. It has a few specialties, including "Bethmännchen" or marzipan cones and "Quetschenmännchen" or plum figures. In Heidelberg, the market is on Universitätsplatz and has approximately 80 stands.

At Mannheim the stands are around the "Wasserturm" (Water Tower), which gives it a romantic atmosphere. At Mainz the Christmas Market is on the historical market place in front of "Dom Sankt Martin" or Saint Martin Cathedral.

Cologne has more variety than most the other cities. There are six different markets around the city, the largest of which is located at the Kölner Dom. Others include sites at the old and new market places, outside the city's chocolate museum and a floating market located on river boats.

No matter which city hosts the market, each one has a special flavor of Christmas and presents a great cultural opportunity.

If you go...



The Frankfurt Christmas Market extends from the Römer to the Zeil. The Park Haus at the Römer is usually full, but alternate locations at the Konstablerwache and Hauptwache usually have spots.



The Frankfurt Christmas Market runs until Wednesday and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. Cologne boasts six markets open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily until Thursday. They include markets at the cathedral, Altermarkt, Neumarkt, Rudolfplatz, outside the chocolate museum and a floating market located on river boats. The Heidelberg market is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily through Wednesday.



Prices range from a couple of euros for some Christmas ornaments to several hundred euros for Nativity scenes. Most markets sale Glühwein in commemorative cups. Customers pay a deposit on the cup and can receive their money back when they return the cup or take the cup home as a souvenir.



For more information log onto www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk/index1.htm.